

Appl. No. 10/645,764
Amdt. dated October 19, 2005
Reply to Final Office Action of June 21, 2005

REMARKS

Applicant has carefully reviewed the Advisory Action mailed September 22, 2005, and the Final Office Action mailed June 21, 2005. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and the following comments. Claims 1 and 10 have been amended to clarify that each continuous wire extends through the proximal braid section and the distal braid section. These amendments are fully supported. See, for example, page 9, lines 4-5 of the specification. A Request for Continued Examination is concurrently filed herewith.

Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's rejection of claims 1, 2, 6, 8, 10, 12 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Chien et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,891,114. In order to anticipate, the cited reference must disclose each and every claimed element. Chien et al. fail to do so.

In the previous Amendment, Applicant argued that the claims describe a braid that is formed from at least two continuous wires that have been woven together, and that each continuous wire clearly extends from the proximal section of the braid to the distal section of the braid. While Applicant believes that claim amendments are not necessary, such are presented herein to facilitate prosecution.

As argued previously, Chien et al. do not disclose the claimed invention. Figure 7 of Chien et al. describes a more distal braid (262) that is either an extension of ribbon braid (266) with some of its elements removed or it may be an independent braid that has been placed distally of braid (266). Figure 7 does not meet the claimed invention.

Figure 8 shows a variation in which woven braid (282) is formed of a wire, and is abutted against braid (262). These are distinct sections butted together. Indeed, braid (262) is described as preferably being made from a super-elastic alloy, while braid (282) is described as preferably being made from stainless steel. Clearly, these are distinct sections. Figure 8 does not meet the claimed invention.

Chien et al. fail to describe the claimed braid (or catheter) in which there are at least two continuous wires, each wire having a proximal diameter or cross-sectional area and a smaller distal diameter or cross-sectional area. Therefore, Chien et al. cannot be considered as anticipatory. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

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Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested. It is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance. Issuance of a Notice of Allowance in due course is requested. If a telephone conference might be of assistance, please contact the undersigned attorney at (612) 677-9050.

Respectfully submitted,

Pu Zhou

By his Attorney,

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